(b)   an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations; and

(c)   an AV conference manager configured to manage a videoconference among a plurality of workstations that may be disposed in different local area networks during which the video image and spoken audio of one participant, captured at a workstation, is reproduced at another workstation, wherein the system is configured to associate a participant with only each workstation at which the participants logs in and to route a videoconference call, for that participant, to each workstation at which that participant is logged in, said AV conference manager comprising a means for mapping between predetermined participant identifiers and AV ports on a corresponding workstation using said terminal ID and port ID information.

Claim 62 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 61, wherein the AV path connects the workstation of a first participant at a first location in a first local area network to the workstation of another participant at a second location in a second local area network, the system further comprising at least first and second codecs, respectively at the first and second locations, configured to compress AV signals and decompress compressed AV signals.

Claim 63 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 62, wherein the AV conference manager comprises a means for processing login information is at least two steps.

Claim 64 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 61, wherein said plurality of work stations comprise a workstation at a local site and at least one of said workstations at

remote sites, and wherein the number of said at least one of said workstations at remote sites as

well as and a corresponding number of logins are an arbitrary number.

Claim 65 (new) The teleconferencing system of claim 61, wherein the AV path connects

the workstation of a first participant at a first location in a first local area network to the

workstation of another participant at a second location in a second local area network via a third

location, the system further comprising:

(a)   at least first and second codecs, respectively at the first and second locations,

configured to compress AV signals and decompress compressed AV signals; and

(b)   an AV signal switch at the third location, operable to route compressed AV

signals originating at a terminal at said first location and destined for another

terminal at said second location without the compressed signals being

decompressed at the third location.

Claim 66 (new) A method of conducting a teleconference among a plurality of

participants using workstations with AV ports and associated monitors for displaying visual

images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and

reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, at least a first and second of said

workstations being disposed in different local area networks, and being used by first and second

participants, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   associating first and second participants only with each workstation logged into

by a first and second participant, respectively, each participant having a unique identifier;

(b)   initiating a call from the first to the second participant and mapping between predetermined participant identifiers and AV ports, each AV port having a unique port identifier, on a corresponding workstation;

(c)   routing the initiated call to each and only each workstation at which the second participants is logged in on the basis of said participant unique identifiers and said unique port identifiers;

(d)   capturing participant video images and audio of the first and second participants;

(e)   carrying AV signals representing the captured video images and spoken audio of the participants along an AV path among workstations associated with the first and second participants; and

(f)   managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of the first participant is reproduced at the workstation of the second participant.

Claim 67 (new) A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, at least a first and second of said workstations being disposed in different local area networks, and being used by first and second participants, the teleconferencing system comprising:

(a)   a plurality of workstations having a visual image display monitor and associated participants audio and video capture and reproduction capabilities;

(b)   an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations; and

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(c)   an AV conference manager configured to mange a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one participant, captured at a workstation, are reproduced at another workstation;

wherein the system is configured to manage a data conference, during which shared data is displayed interactively on the visual display monitor of at least two participants; and

configured to associate a participant with each workstation at which the participant logs in and to route a videoconference call for that participant, to each workstation at which that participant is logged in.

Claim 68. (new) A method of conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants using workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, at least a first and a second of said workstations being located in different local area networks, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   associating first and second participants, respectively, with each of said first and second workstation logged into by a first and a second participant;

(b)   initiating a call from the first to the second participant;

(c)   routing the initiated call to each and only each workstation at which the second participant is logged in;

(d)   capturing participant video images and audio of the first and second participants;

(e) carrying AV signals representing the captured video images and spoken audio of the participants along an AV path among workstations associated with the first and second participants;

(f) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of the first participant is reproduced at the workstation of the second participant; and

(g) sharing data, along a data path, among workstations associated with the first and second participants;

(h) managing a data conference, during which images based on the shared data are displayed interactively on at least one workstation monitor associated with each of the first and second participants.

Claim 69 (new) The method of conducting a teleconferencing of claim 68, wherein the step of associating first and second participants comprises processing login information in at least two steps.

Claim 70 (new) The method of conducting a teleconferencing of claim 69, wherein the at least two steps comprises associating a name with a terminal ID and associating a terminal ID with at least one of a datacom port ID and an AV channel.

Claim 71 (new) The method of conducting a teleconferencing of claim 69, wherein the at least two steps further comprises associating a terminal ID with a WAN gateway port ID.

Claim 72 (new) A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, comprising:

a) a first plurality of workstations connected in a first local area network, each having a log-in procedure for registering a participant and comprising a visual image display monitor and associated participant audio and video capture and reproduction capabilities; and

a second plurality of workstations connected in a second local area network, each having a login procedure for registering a participant and comprising a visual image display monitor and associated participant audio and video capture and reproduction capabilities;

b) an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio to and from selected ones of the first and second plurality of workstations;

c) a data path for carrying control signals to and from each of said first and second plurality of workstations; and

d) at least one AV conference manager configured to manage a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one participant, captured at a workstation, is reproduced at another workstation,

wherein the system is configured to use said data path to associate a participant with only each of a plurality of workstations at which the participant logs-in and to route an incoming videoconference call notification, for that participant, to each workstation at which that participant is currently logged-in, said AV conference manager comprising at least a directory server and a service server for mapping between predetermined participant identifiers and AV ports on a corresponding workstation.

Claim 73 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 72, wherein the AV path

connects the workstation of a first participant at a first location in a first local area network to the

workstation of another participant at a second location in a second local area network, the system

further comprising at least first and second codecs, respectively at the first and second locations,

configured to compress AV signals and decompress compressed AV signals.

Claim 74 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 72, wherein the AV

conference manager comprises a means for processing login information is at least two steps.

Claim 75 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 73, wherein the AV

conference manager comprises a means for processing login information is at least two steps.

Claim 76 (new)   The teleconferencing system of claim 73, wherein the different

local area networks are connected by a wide area network, and said wide area network comprises

a network port having unique port ID's, said unique port ID's being utilized.